

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DHA-02 IO-14 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
/099 W

-----051639 022200Z /70

P 021815Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1069

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0292

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: GOQ TABLES ANTI-SCAB BILL

REF: QUEBEC 0255

1. GOQ'S NEW LABOR LAW, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH LEAKED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO (REFTEL), WAS FINALLY INTRODUCED IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LAST FRIDAY BY NEWLY-INSTALLED LABOR MINISTER PIERRE-MARC JOHNSON. AS EXPECTED, THE NEW LAW (BILL 45) CONTAINS CONTROVERSIAL "ANTI-SCAB" PROVISION PROHIBITING EMPLOYERS FROM HIRING STRIKE-BREAKERS DURING A LOCKOUT OR STRIKE. EMPLOYERS VIOLATING ANTI-SCAB RULE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO FINES OF UP TO DOLS 1000 PER DAY.

2. PROPOSED LABOR LAW CONTAINS SEVERAL OTHER PROVISIONS LONG SOUGHT BY QUEBEC LABOR LEADERS, INCLUDING MANDATORY REHIRING PREFERENCE FOR STRIKING WORKERS ONCE WORK RESUMES AND ADOPTION OF RAND FORMULA WHEREBY ALL WORKERS IN A UNIONIZED PLANT PAY UNION DUES WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE UNION MEMBERS.

3. PREDICTABLY, PROPOSED LAW DREW PRAISE FROM LABOR LEADERS AND  
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CONDEMNATION FROM BUSINESS WORLD. FERNAND DAOUST, SEC GEN OF QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOR, PRONOUNCED HIMSELF "DELIGHTED," WHILE CNTU REP CALLED THE LAW "QUITE SATISFACTORY IN GENERAL." JAMES DOYLE, PRESIDENT OF THE QUEBEC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CONDEMNED THE BILL AS "UNREALISTIC" AND SAID IT COULD "FORCE MEDIUM AND SMALL BUSINESSES INTO BANKRUPTCY."

4. LABOR LEADERS' PLEASURE WAS TEMPERED SOMEWHAT BY PROVISION CALLING FOR SECRET BALLOT ON STRIKE VOTES. THIS PROVISION IS DESIGNED TO CORRECT UNION ABUSES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHERE UNION LEADERS HAVE HAD TENDENCY TO ACT UNILATERALLY WITHOUT CONSULTING UNION RANK-AND-FILE. SEVERAL UNION LEADERS TAGGED THE SECRET BALLOT PROVISION AS "UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN UNION AFFAIRS."

5. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS NEVERTHELESS A SIGNIFICANT PLUS FOR LABOR. ANTI-SCAB LAW WOULD BE MOST "PROGRESSIVE" IN CANADA. GOQ UNDOUBTEDLY WISHES SHORE UP ITS LABOR FLANK, WHICH HAS BEEN GETTING INCREASINGLY RESTIVE IN RECENT MONTHS. QUEBEC'S LABOR MOVEMENT SUPPORTED PQ OVERWHELMINGLY IN LAST ELECTION, AND HAS RECEIVED NOTHING IN RETURN SINCE THE MINIMUM WAGE WAS RAISED LAST FALL.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009